

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships

For Achieving Excellence in College and University Teaching

Administered by
*The National Research Council of
The National Academies*

Program Goals

Through its program of Diversity Fellowships the Ford Foundation seeks to:

- Increase the diversity of the nation's college and university faculties by increasing ethnic and racial diversity
- Maximize the educational benefits of diversity
- Increase the number of professors who can and will use diversity as a resource for enriching the education of all students

Eligibility

- All citizens or nationals of the United States
- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Committed to a career in teaching and research at college/university level
- Studying a research-based discipline

Eligible Fields of Study

- Behavioral and Social Science
 - Humanities
 - Engineering
 - Mathematics
 - Physical Sciences
 - Life Sciences
- **Practice-oriented** programs such as law, business, and nursing will not be supported

Criteria for Selection

The following will be considered as positive factors in choosing successful candidates:

- Evidence of superior academic achievement
- Degree of promise of continued achievement as scholars and teachers

Criteria for Selection

➤ Membership in one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding:

- Alaska Native (Eskimo or Aleut)
- Black/African Americans
- Mexican Americans/Chicano
- Native American Indians
- Native Pacific Islanders (Polynesian/Micronesian)
- Puerto Ricans

Criteria for Selection

- Capacity to respond in pedagogically productive ways to the learning needs of students from diverse backgrounds
- Sustained personal engagement with communities that are underrepresented in academics and use these experiences as a tool for teaching
- Likelihood of using the diversity of human experience as an educational resource in teaching and scholarship

Additional Predoctoral Requirements

- Must be able to use three full years of graduate support
- Applicants already enrolled in a PhD or ScD Program must submit a “Verification of Predoctoral Status” form signed by their adviser
- GRE General Test Scores are optional

Additional Dissertation Requirements

- Must complete all requirements for PhD or ScD except writing a dissertation
- A form signed by the adviser must be received by January, 2007
- The dissertation should be completed while on the Ford program, or at the latest, no more than 6 months after completion of program

Additional Postdoctoral Requirements

- Ph.D. or Sc.D. must have been completed between December 2000 and November 2007
- Applicants may not have held this degree longer than 7 years
- Applicants should select a host institution other than their employing institution

Evaluation Results

- Fellowships Awarded
 - 60 Predoctoral
 - 35 Dissertation
 - 20 Postdoctoral
- Notifications will be published in April 2008

Stipend and Benefits

➤ **Predoctoral** - \$20,000 annual stipend
for three years

- \$2,000 Annual Cost-of-Education Allowance

➤ **Dissertation** - \$21,000 – for one year

➤ **Postdoctoral** - \$40,000 – for one year

- \$1,500 Employing Institutional Allowance

➤ Expenses paid to attend at least one Conference of Ford Fellows

➤ Mentoring by Ford Liaisons

How to Apply

- All applicants are asked to apply via the web
<http://nationalacademies.org/fellowships>
- Each essay should be saved as a separate file
Word (doc), Rich Text (rtf), or PDF
- Be sure to “**SUBMIT**” your application

Simple Things

- Start Early
- Follow Instructions
- Get Help
- Be Consistent
- Proofread
- Cultivate your letters of reference

Proposed Plan

- Start early
- Show it to your adviser, roommate, etc.
- Be concise and specific
- Avoid excessive jargon
- Use Times New Roman or other legible font
- Use a size 12 font
- Revise until submission
- On-line review of file to check for completeness

Personal Statement

- Express commitment to the goals of the Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships Program
- Describe long-term career goals

Statement of Previous Research

- Mention all undergraduate and graduate research experiences
- Make clear how your experiences have prepared you for graduate study

Letters of Reference

- An e-mail address must be provided for each referee
- Applicants click a button in the application to forward a sign-on and password to referees
- Completeness of file may be checked on-line

Cultivate Your References

- Introduce yourself early
- Tell referees about your plans
- Provide biographical information/C.V.
- Follow up
- Express thanks

Application Deadlines

- Predoctoral - November 15, 2007
- Dissertation - November 29, 2007
- Postdoctoral - November 29, 2007

Conference of Ford Fellows



A select group of high-achieving scholars from diverse backgrounds

- Networking with peers and elders
- Meetings with university & academic presses
- Career advancement workshops
- Interaction with established & emerging scholars in diverse fields

Contact Information



Feel free to contact the Fellowships Office

- 202-334-2872
- Infofell@nas.edu
- <http://national-academies.org/fellowships>